

The A. P. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative and judicial news. For further information that will benefit the trade union movement.

WHOLE NO. 1005.

GOVERNOR REFUSES TO PARDON MOONEY

San Francisco, July 12.—Following the State Supreme Court's refusal to grant a pardon for Warren K. Billings, Governor Young took the same position on the pardon plea of Thomas J. Mooney. The Advisory Pardon Board had declined to favor Mooney's plea.

"Until some further light is shed upon the case, which I do not possess," the Governor said, "I accept the conclusions of the Supreme Court and the Advisory Pardon Board."

Billings' pardon request differs from that of Mooney in that he has previously been convicted of a crime and sentenced to life imprisonment. The State Supreme Court must pass on a pardon plea.

The Governor could not act on the Mooney plea without reference to the Board, which had no jurisdiction over Mooney.

Last year the Governor announced he would read the testimony of the Mooney trial during his summer vacation and then return to the State. He referred the matter to the State Pardon Board, which was to be guided by the Supreme Court's decision in the Billings case.

Mooney was originally sentenced to hang, but the Governor commuted his term to life imprisonment. Judge Griffin, who presided at the trial, has since been pardoned. Judge Griffin has declared that Mooney's conviction was "one of the dirtiest jobs ever put over."

Mooney, Ed Nolan and Isaac Weinberg, a jewelry driver, were also members of the bombing. They were acquitted.

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The labor bank was in the hands of a receiver for several days. Creditors were paid in full. The Brotherhood officials inform their members.

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The Central Trust Company accepted the plan of selling over its assets, the payment in full to all depositors without loss of interest. Checks for the balance of the bank were drawn for a total of \$100,000.

PRIVILEGE THWARTS COMPENSATION LAW

Butte, Mont., July 12.—Big business in this state defeated the proposed initiative for a compensation law for public officials. The Montana State Legislature has passed a bill which would limit the salary of public officials to the salary of the highest paid private citizen in the state.

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WILLIAM GREEN, President.

WATCH THOSE "CREEPING" WAGE CUTS

Billions of dollars that are invested in installment buying precludes popular approval of a nation-wide wage reduction movement.

The strategy of low-wage advocates is to profess faith in high wages, while quietly enforcing what it soothly called "wage readjustments."

Former business depressions were blamed on "high" wages, and wage cuts were urged by economists and business men.

This policy has been discarded. Industrialists are now expected to give lip service to the high wage principle, while they quietly "readjust" wages. This "readjustment," of course, is downward.

The Magazine of Wall Street is an exception to the general rule. That financial publication frankly declares:

"We hate to mention it, but it may be that one way to increase work and labor income and restore prosperity is for organized labor to take a lower rate of pay."

The policy of "creeping" wage cuts is slyly advocated by the Wall Street Journal, which drops this hint to manufacturers:

"Cost of living is down considerably from last year's level. It is not surprising that the business community should be alert to the new plan to reach an old objective. Living costs are not 'down considerably.' They have dropped but three per cent—quite 'readjust' wages. This 'readjustment,' of course, is downward."

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1930

MAIN POINT IN MOONEY CASE

The Mooney case involves more than liberating an individual from prison. It is not a question of Mooney's economic views, or even his innocence or guilt.

What must be kept in mind by every American who believes in orderly processes is that Mooney charges he has been "framed" in a court of law, and presents affidavits to support that charge.

State witnesses have confessed their perjury, police officials publicly agree that Mooney was "framed," and Judge Griffin, who presided at the trial, has declared it was "one of the dirtiest deals ever put over."

Most who discuss Mooney's personality and his innocence or guilt, but the outstanding fact remains that a man barely escaped the gallows and is in prison for life, while men who tried him say he was "framed."

It is a situation fraught with danger to the foundation of our governmental structure when men can be unchallenged in their claim that any court in this country can "railroad" a person to the penitentiary.

Our courts are the bulwark of our liberties. Every citizen should insist that this institution be unimpaired.

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PORTO RICAN LAND GRABBING UPHELD BY 'IMPARTIAL' PROBE

San Juan, Porto Rico, July 12.—Leaders of all political parties here called protests to Theodore Roosevelt, governor of Porto Rico, to stop the land grabbing in this island.

The institution is composed of economists and capitalists. It has surveyed island conditions and its findings are printed in a 350-page book.

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WEST VIRGINIA MINERS APPEAL TO PRESIDENT

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To live is not merely to breathe; it is to act.—Rousseau.

VOL. 20, NO. 18.

UNEMPLOYMENT IS AT HIGH LEVEL; PRICE DROP DOESN'T AFFECT LABOR

Washington, July 12.—Workers' incomes are smaller, but cost of living has changed only slightly, according to the Monthly Survey of Business, issued by A. F. of L.

"The decline in prices has thus far been almost entirely in wholesale lines—the prices manufacturers receive for their goods. This is has injured manufacturers without benefitting workers," says the Bulletin.

"Wages have been steadily declining since May, 1929, making a decrease of 8 per cent. Weekly Bureau reported that May saw a further drop of 1 per cent. The average cost of living is only 2 per cent lower."

Workers' incomes, the first four months of this year, were 10 per cent below last year. In April, this year, the cost of workers employed in factories and on railroads was \$102,000,000 less than in October, last year, when the decline began.

"Unemployment today is at a very high level—more than twice as many are out of work as a year ago, according to wage earners' buying index. Many are on part time, some are underemployed. Living standards are lower."

"June failed to bring the hoped-for improvement in unemployment. Twenty per cent of union members are still out of work. In June, this year, there were 222 union members out of work for every 100 in June, last year. Our preliminary estimate for the number out of work in May was 3,000,000, not including office workers or farm labor. This is only 2 per cent less than in November, last year."

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POWER TRUST PROFITS REVEALED BY SENATOR

Washington, July 12.—The power trust has reached into every home, into every manufacturing and business institution in the United States, according to a report by Senator Norris.

There is not a State in the Union that is not clamoring for this trust, said Mr. Norris. "Not satisfied with the production of electricity, the United States has created a new industry, the electric power industry."

The speaker called attention to a report by the National Power Company, owned by the American Power and Light Company, made in 1929.

American Power and Light, he said, controlled by Electric Bond and Share Company. The latter concern it mentioned as a combination that will be the largest business organization in the country.

Senator Norris referred to National Power and Light as "part of the same outfit that has blocked legislation for Muscle Shoals for ten years; it is the same outfit that prevents construction of the second great dam on the Tennessee River."

The Senate resolution calls for government operation of Muscle Shoals, and Senator Norris favors private operation. Attempts to compose these differences failed.

FARMERS GO TO CITIES; MACHINERY IS BLAMED

Iowa City, Iowa, July 12.—Prof. J. H. Lusk, of the University of Iowa, blamed the farmers for the economic depression. He said that the farmers were the cause of the depression.

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RESOLUTION FAVORED FOR MUSCLE SHOALS

Washington, July 12.—Favorable action on a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of War to sell power from the Muscle Shoals, counties and municipalities, as well as private corporations, was made by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

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